

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-23, 25, 27-41, 43, 45-54 and 76-78 were examined and acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. Of those claims, claims 1, 19 and 37 have been canceled and new claims 79-81 have been added, leaving claims 2-5, 7, 9-18, 20-23, 25, 27-36, 38-41, 43, 45-54 and 79-81 for consideration.

Turning first to claim 9.

Claim 9 has been objected to but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 depended from claim 1 and has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of claim 1. It therefore appears that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 7, 10 and 13-18, as amended, depend directly from claim 9 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

Claim 11 stands objected to, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 depended from claim 1 and has been rewritten to include all the limitations of claim 1. Claim 12 was similarly acted upon and has been similarly amended. In view thereof, it is believed that claims 11 and 12 are now in allowable condition.

Claim 27 has been objected to but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 27 depended from claim 19. Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form, including the matter of claim 19. In the matter from claim 19 "a structured surface defined by a substrate" has been changed to -- a structured surface affixed to a substrate --, which appears to be a bit more accurate. In the matter from original claim 27, "pores beneath said structured surface" has been changed to -- pores within said structured surface -- which is more accurate. The two changes would not appear to affect the claim substantively. It appears that claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 20-23, 25, 28, and 31-36 depend from claim 27 and should be deemed allowable through dependency.

Claims 29 and 30 were objected to but held to contain allowable matter. Both claims have been rewritten to include the matter of the claims from which they depended (claim 19). It would appear that claims 29 and 30 are in allowable condition. As in claim 27, the wording "structured surface defined by a substrate" has been changed to -- structured

surface affixed to a substrate --, which is believed to be improved language, not affecting the claims substantively.

Moving ahead to claims 47 and 48, the two claims are objected to but held to contain allowable matter. Both claims have been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the claim (37) from which they depended. Accordingly, claims 47 and 48 would appear to be in allowable form.

Claims 38-41, 43, 45, 46 and 49-54 depend from claim 47 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

Claim 45 stands objected to for depending from a canceled claim. Claim 45, as amended, depends from claim 47, which has been objected to but deemed to contain allowable matter.

Claims 76-78 have been allowed.

New claims 79-81 are submitted herein. The three new claims are limited to the structured surface being defined by a material including a plurality of particles that are sintered together to form a continuous porous phase.

In view of the amendments herein, it appears that allowance of claims 2-5, 7, 9-18, 20-23, 25, 27-36, 38-41, 43, and 45-54 are in condition for allowance, along with claims 76-78. Claims

79-81 have been drafted with a view to early allowance, and allowance thereof is most respectfully requested.

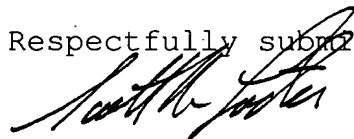
In reviewing the application, it appeared that FIG. 2 was lacking reference character "230". A red ink amendment to FIG. 2 is enclosed for Examiner's approval.

In a similar vein, several minor errors were noted in the specification, which have been corrected herein.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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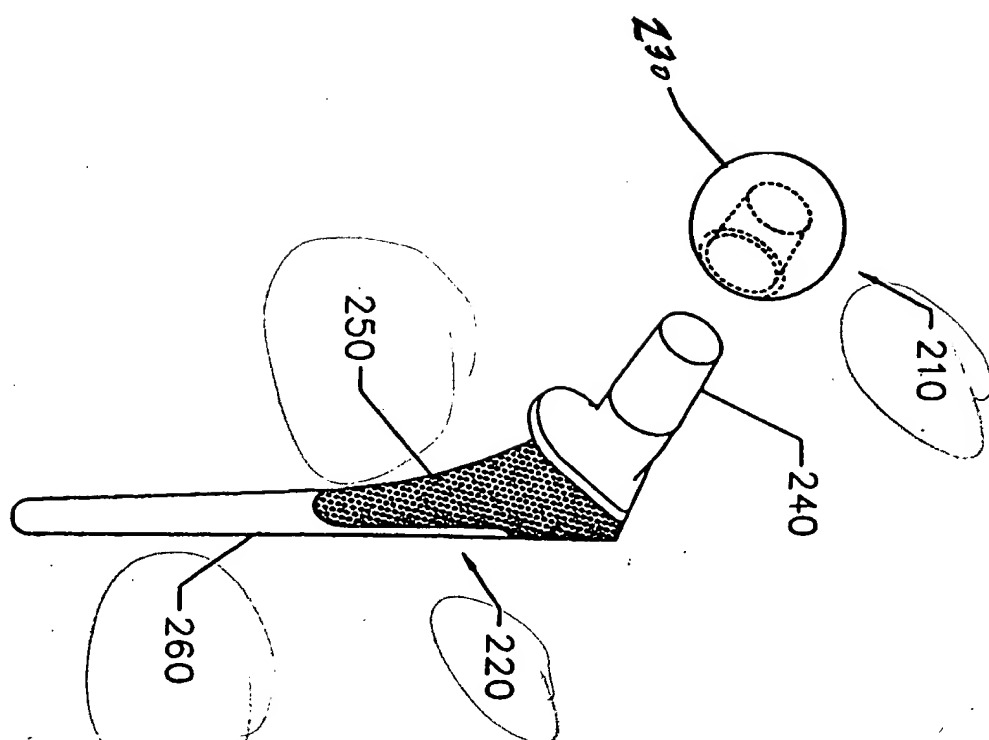


Fig. 2